

Front Page
E-50 Page
Other Page

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CIA and the Campuses

The National Student Association, bloody but only slightly bowed, is marching squarely into the field of fire. At its Congress at College Park, Md., Robert Amory Jr., former deputy director of intelligence in the Central Intelligence Agency, will be one of the panelists in a discussion of "Secrecy in a Free Society: The CIA." The session starts Sunday.

The NSA leaders may be burnt, but they don't fear the fire. Rather, they seem to be pouring on fuel. Reservations for this year's student Congress have been running at more than double the rate of last year. More than 1,500 delegates from 330 campuses are expected to attend. In its own publicity NSA suggests that heated debate will arise over Vietnam and the NSA connection with CIA.

The word early this year that NSA, the largest and oldest and probably the most respectable student association in the United States, has been subsidized for years by the Central Intelligence Agency created an almost immediate gag reaction. It triggered a series of disclosures, some

of them by a former CIA insider, that traced a huge pattern of subsidy to private groups here and abroad.

A strong minority may argue at the mid-August conference that the NSA should disband and begin anew. The argument, according to Richard Stearns, international affairs vice president, will be that NSA officers still maintain covert ties with the CIA. However, NSA leaders have no expectation of defeat.

Amory, the man who will tell the CIA story at College Park, said recently that he feared the people who have cooperated in foreign countries with U. S. organizations in the past may be in danger of arrest, harassment, or worse. The damage the disclosures earlier this year did to the intelligence community are probably incalculable.

Just the same, intelligence people will tell you that despite a built-in flap, subsidizing NSA was worth the gamble. The students did much throughout the world to counter the openly subsidized work of students of non-democratic societies.

* Also: Macon (Ga.) Telegraph-Sunday Telegraph & News, 7 Aug. 1967.